system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity;

a contract authority for assigning a unique identifier to such a negotiation;

a security function for validating that the terms stored by the automated negotiations engine for such a negotiation identified by the unique identifier have appropriate access controls and privilege safeguards.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the contract authority further comprises a dynamic contract manager which incorporates security extensions into terms proposed by each user.

3. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the security extensions further comprise access control lists.

4. The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the security extensions further comprise privilege lists.

5. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the security function further comprises validation functions to respond to requests for information associated with the unique identifier.

6. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the contract authority further comprises a number generator which generates identifiers in such a way that it insures that the identifier will not be generated again within the system of record.

7. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the security function further comprises audit functions for insuring that a record of each attempted access to the automated system of record is stored in the automated system of record.

8. The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the contract authority enables a user to associate external data with terms stored in the automated system of record, thereby becoming a part of the automated system of record.

9. A method for providing an automated system of record for at least one negotiation, comprising the steps of :

operating a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity;

assigning a unique identifier, through a contact authority, to such a negotiation;

validating, through a security function, that the terms stored by the automated

negotiations engine for such a negotiation identified by the unique identifier have

appropriate access controls and privilege safeguards.

10. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of validating further comprises the step of

incorporating security extensions into terms proposed by each user.

11. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of incorporating security extensions

further comprises the step of including access control lists.

12. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of incorporating security extensions

further comprises the step of including privilege lists.

13. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of validating further comprises the step of

using validation functions to respond to requests for information associated with the

unique identifier.

14. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of assigning unique identifiers further

comprises the step of using a number generator which generates identifiers in such a

way that it insures that the identifier will not be generated again within the system of

record.

15. The method of Claim 8, wherein the step of validating further comprises the step of

insuring that a record of each attempted access to the automated system of record is stored in the automated system of record.

16. The method of Claim 9, wherein the step of using a contract authority further comprises the step of enabling a user to associate external data with terms stored in the automated system of record, thereby becoming a part of the automated system of record.

17. An apparatus for providing an automated system of record for at least one negotiation so that the automated system of record can be stored in multiple repositories, comprising:

a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity;

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a contract authority for assigning a unique identifier to such a negotiation; and

a multiple repository manager for propagating data into multiple repositories

using the unique identifier and for managing any updates which may apply to the

multiple repositories.

18. The apparatus of Claim 16, wherein the multiple repository manager further

comprises a contract central switch for transmitting information to multiple repositories

appropriately.

19. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the multiple repository manager further

comprises a contract router for communicating with the contract central switch.

20. The apparatus of Claim 17, wherein the multiple repository manager further

comprises customizing functions which can respond to a user request to maintain a

copy of items from a negotiation that are relevant to that user in a local repository.

21. A method for providing an automated system of record for at least one negotiation so that the automated system of record can be stored in multiple repositories, comprising the steps of:

operating a multivariate negotiations system including storage space and negotiations software, such negotiations software including an automated negotiations engine for analyzing terms, the analysis of terms comprising understanding the purpose of the terms, formatting the terms according to the purpose, and placing them into user supplied context for use by a user, the automated negotiations engine being responsive to a destination terminal for a first user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the destination terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, the automated negotiations engine also being responsive to an initiating terminal for a second user communicating with the multivariate negotiations system, the initiating terminal including software for sending and receiving terms along a communications path which flows through the multivariate negotiations system, during iterative processing the automated negotiations engine recognizing the users at the destination terminal and the initiating terminal as negotiators and recognizing one of the users as a deciding entity, such automated negotiations engine further recognizing any changes in the terms and storing in the storage space the terms each terminal proposes, and recognizing the terminal to which proposed terms are being sent as the indicated terminal, and sending terms to the indicated terminal, the automated negotiations engine indicating any changes in the terms until a set of terms is acted upon in a final manner by the deciding entity;

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assigning, through a contract authority, a unique identifier to such a negotiation;
and

propagating data, through a multiple repository manager, into multiple repositories using the unique identifier and managing any updates which may apply to the multiple repositories.

22. The method of Claim 21, wherein the step of propagating data further comprises the step of transmitting information to multiple repositories appropriately using a contract central switch.

23. The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of propagating data further comprises the step of communicating with the contract central switch using a contract router.

24. The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of propagating data further comprises the step of responding to a user request to maintain a copy of items from a negotiation that are relevant to that user in a local repository.